

each flexible cell is formed of a first member, a second member, a third member

and a fourth member, a first C-shaped

loop disposed between the first

member and the third member, a

second C-shaped loop disposed

between the second member and the

fourth member, a first flexible

connector disposed between the first

member and the third member, and a

second flexible connector disposed

between the third member and the

fourth

member,

and

This

describes what

shown in Fig. 2 for

example, part of

which is set out

below.

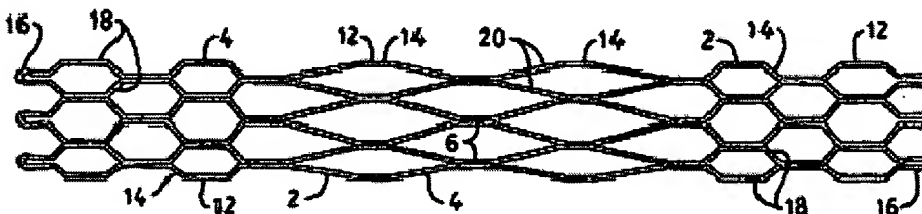
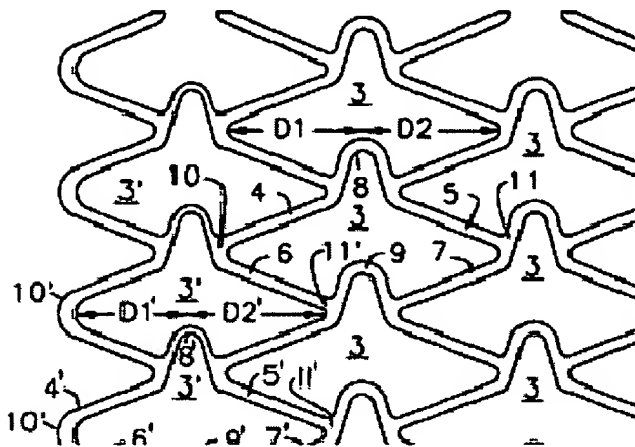


FIG. 4

The C-shaped loops 10 and 10' are visible as are the flexible connectors in each cell. Applicant submits that there is no comparable structure in the references.

Fig. 4 of Simon et al is set out below. As described at the portions of col. 3 cited by the Examiner, it is a mesh with a plurality of interconnected cells 18. So, like the claimed structure, it has cells. But, here the similarity ends. Where are the C-shaped loops? It has none. Where are the flexible connectors? These are missing also. All members making up a cell are made of the wire 4. Thus, one cannot find a flexible connector of the nature disclosed and claimed. Thus, claims 54-57 clearly define over this reference.

The flexible connectors 8' are more flexible than the connectors 8 in the structure disclosed and claimed in the present application. In fact all of claims 58-69 call for both greater radial force and increased flexibility. These references do not teach increased radial flexibility, nor does Applicant see anything in the structure that would result in such increased flexibility. Once again, the fact that all sections are made of a single wire is noted. Connectors, to the extent

that the wires connecting pairs of members forming V-shaped structures can be so termed, do not vary from section to section; they are the same in the center as at the ends. Thus, new claims 58-69 also define over this art.

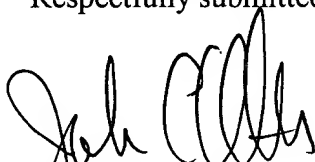
The references do discuss variation in radial force. But, Applicants submit that there is no teaching regarding increasing flexibility at the same time as increasing radial force. The second does not naturally follow from the first as the Examiner seems to imply in paragraph 7. Separate measures are taken to insure each. In the illustrated embodiment, certain members are made shorter to increase radial strength, while the connectors are made thinner to increase flexibility. The Examiner has not pointed to and can not point to any teaching in the references of doing anything to increase flexibility. Without separate measures being taken, and the suggestion to take measures to make parts of the stent more flexible comes only from Applicant's specification, neither the cell with shorter member is the reference nor those of the present application will have greater flexibility.

Thus, all of the claims presented distinguish over Simon et al. and Kleshinski et al. and are in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is requested, after reviewing this response to contact the undersigned to discuss any remaining issues in this application.

The Office is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: December 16, 2002

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